

THE WALKING

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Previously:

After punching the traitorous Gregory, Maggie rallied the Hilltop to support Rick's war effort. But casualties were already mounting, especially for Ezekiel's troops, and only Shiva's sacrifice saved Ezekiel himself from certain death at the hands of walkers.

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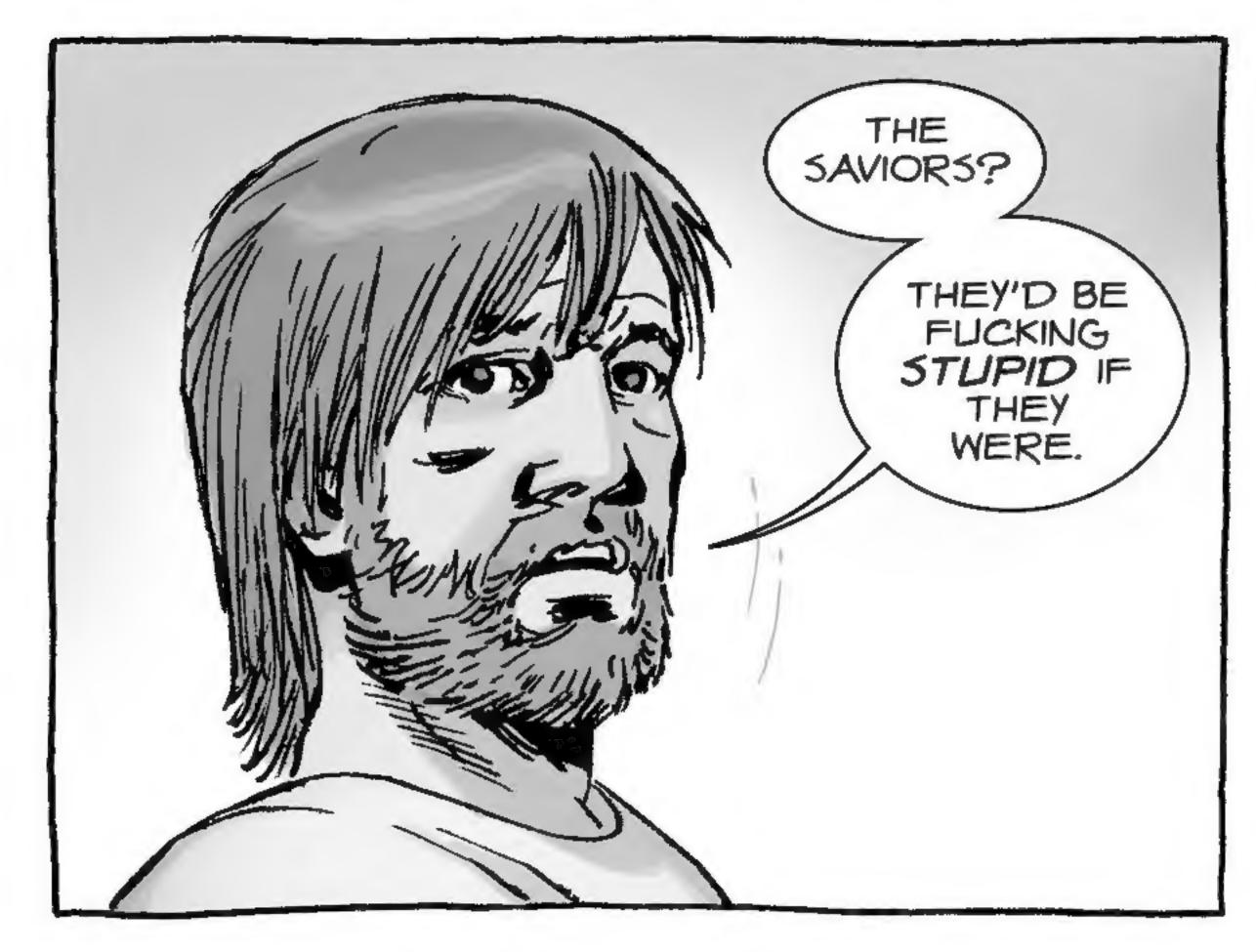


































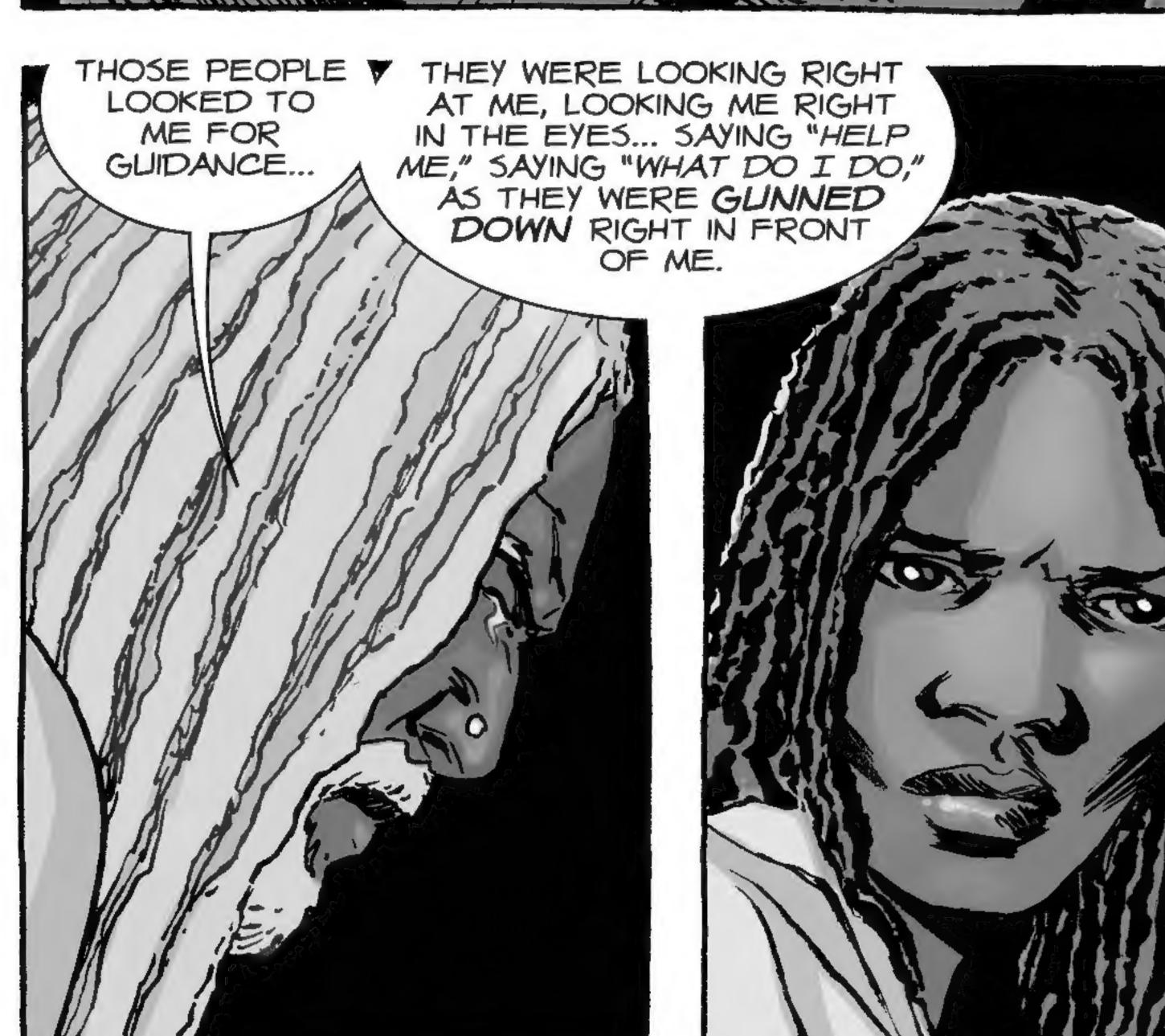






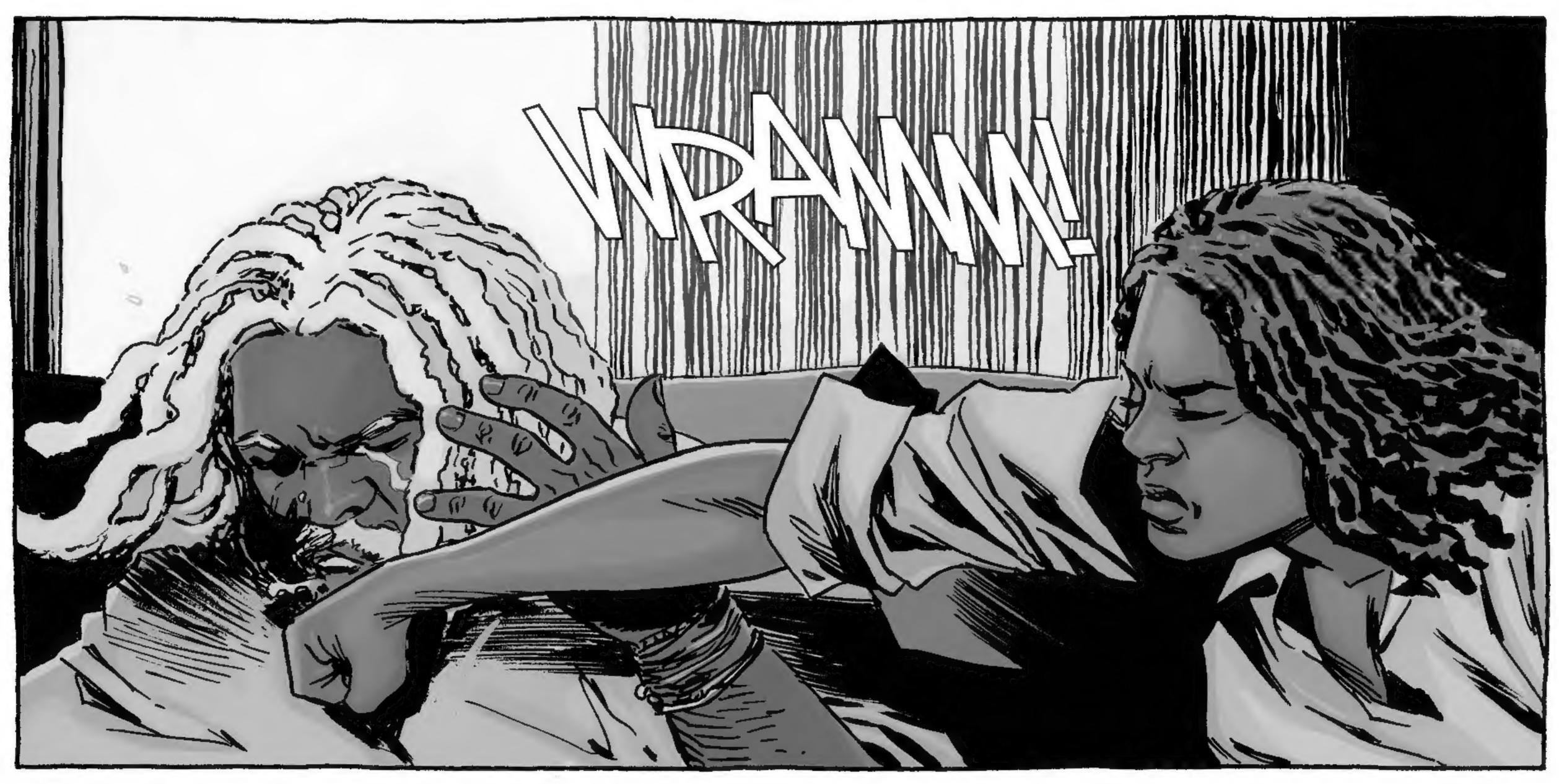




















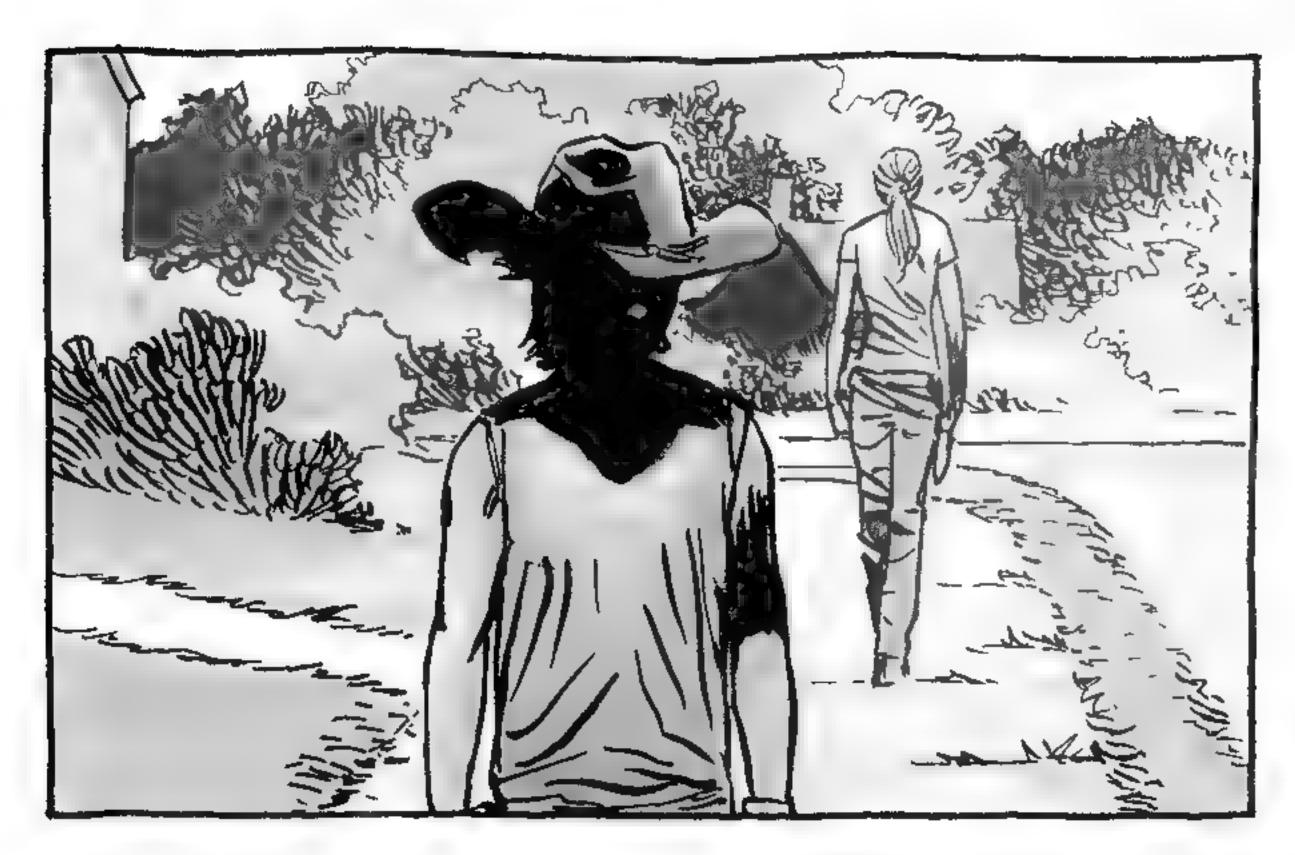
















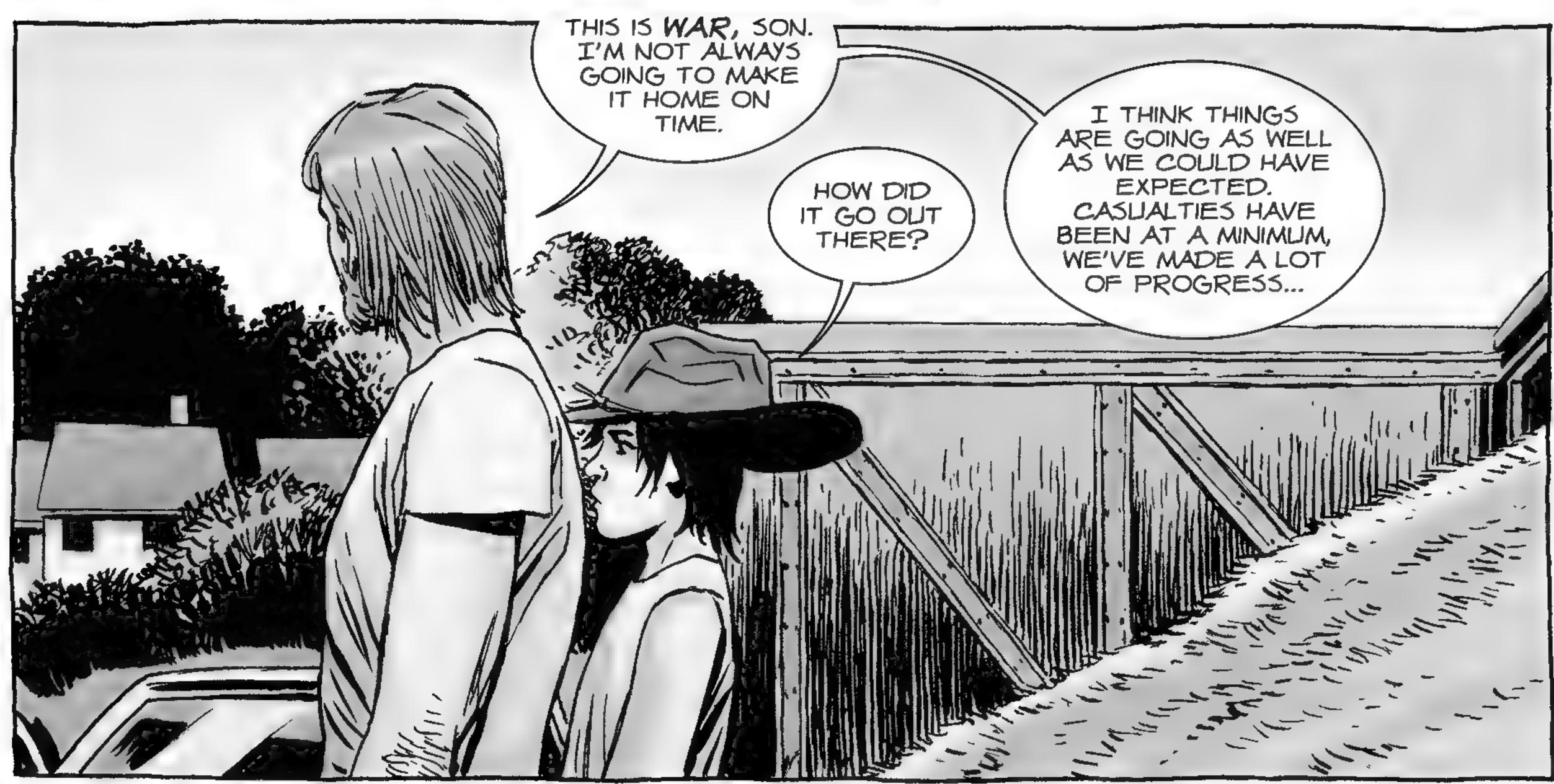










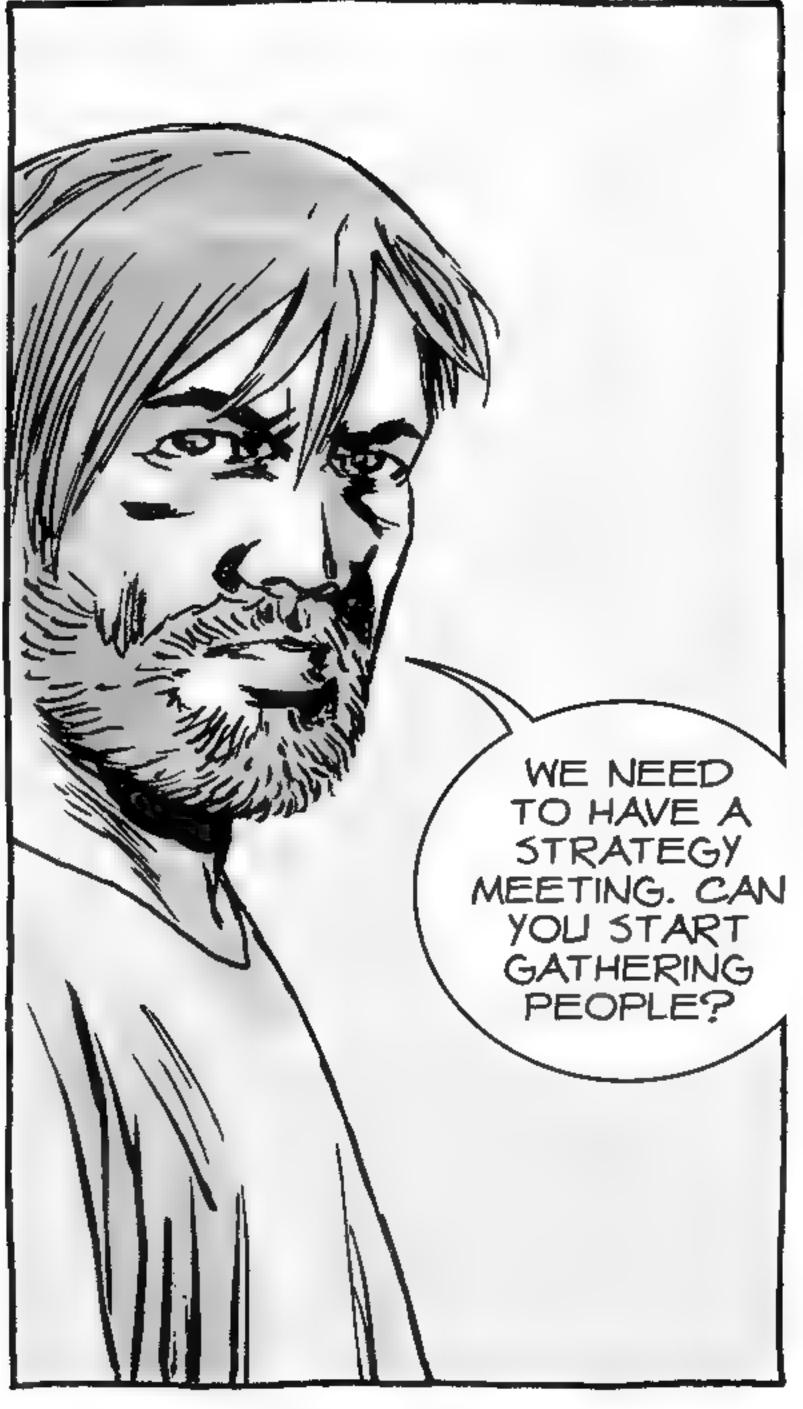


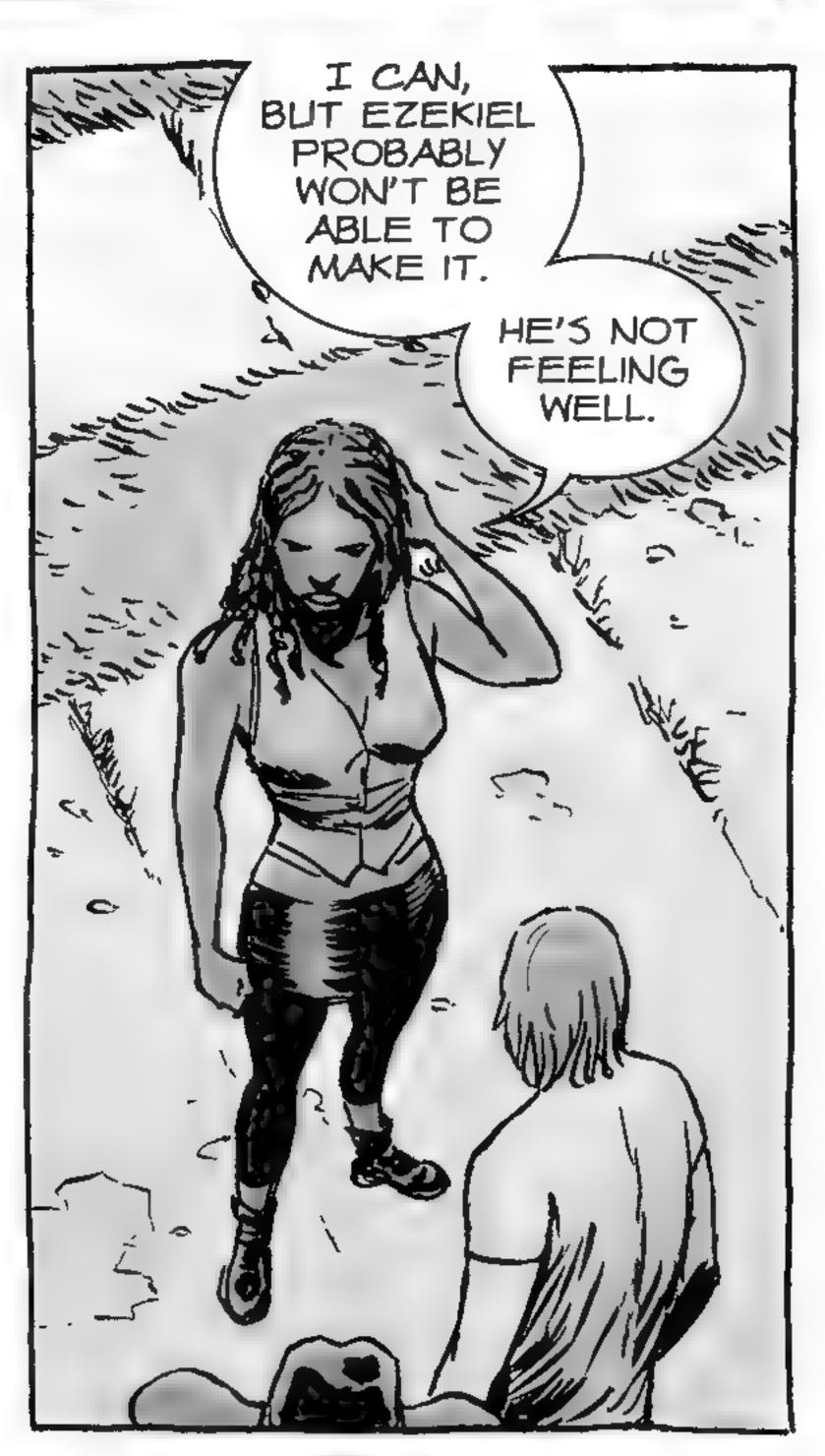


















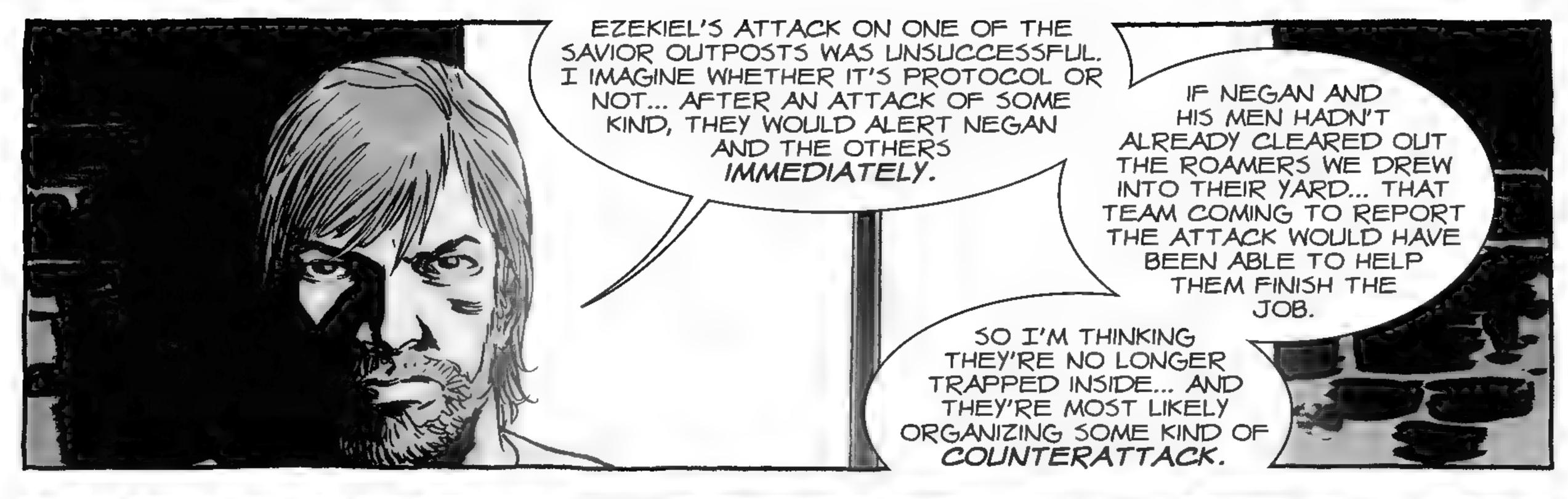






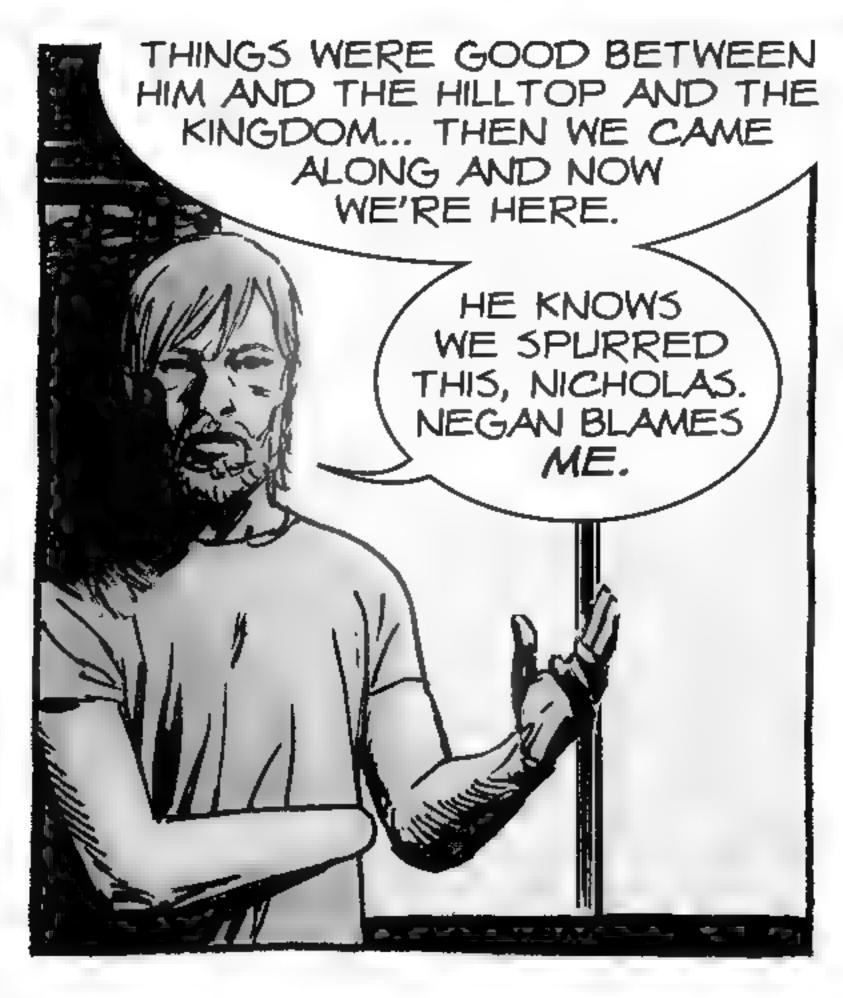


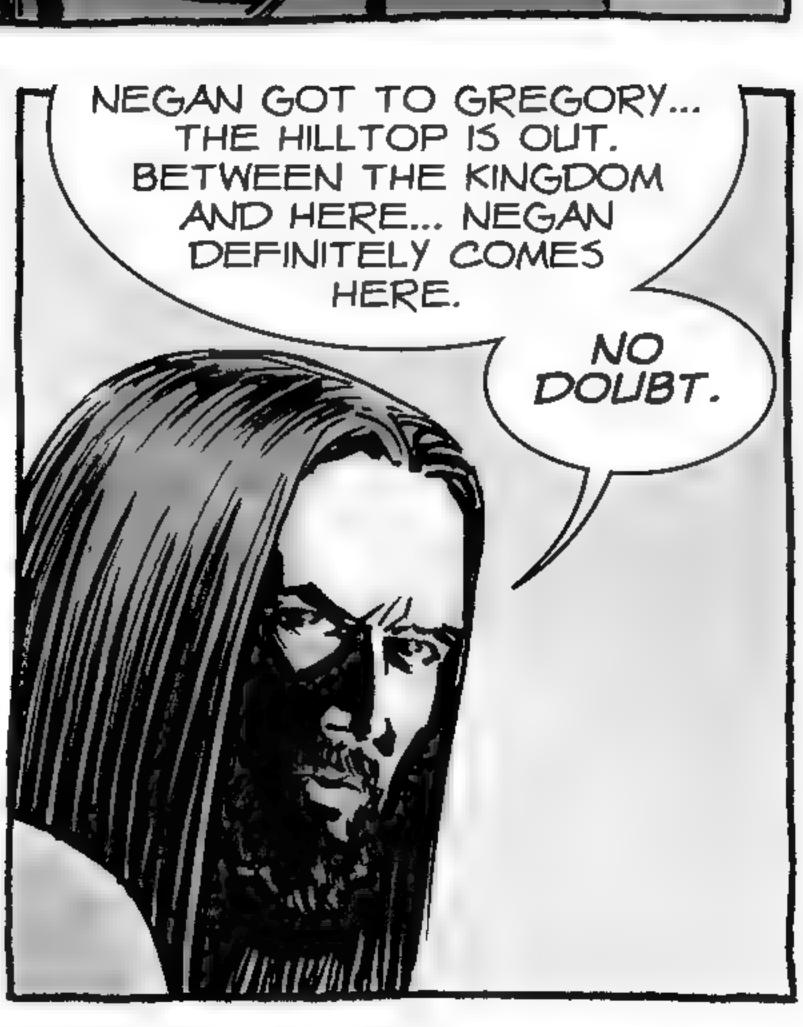


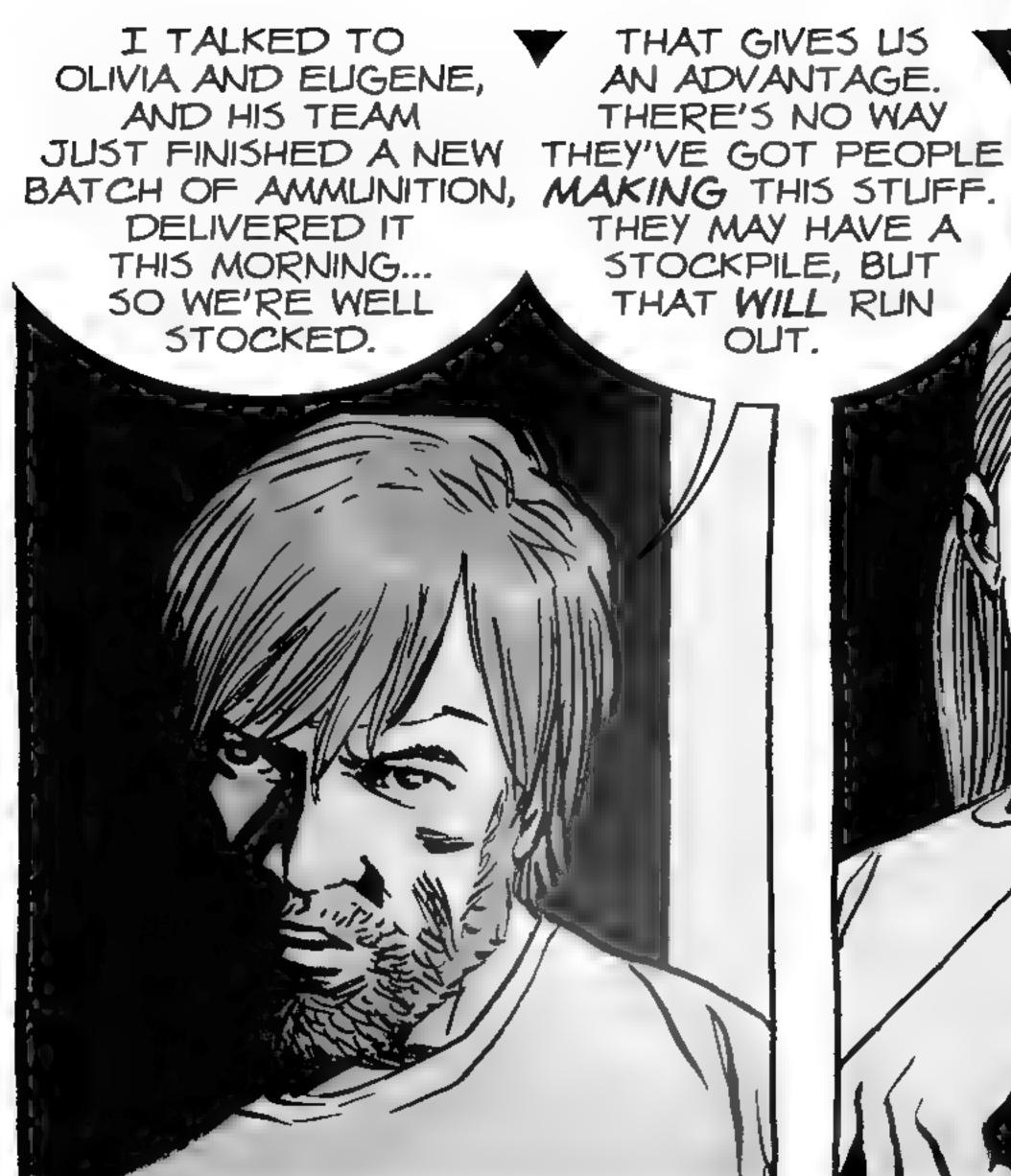








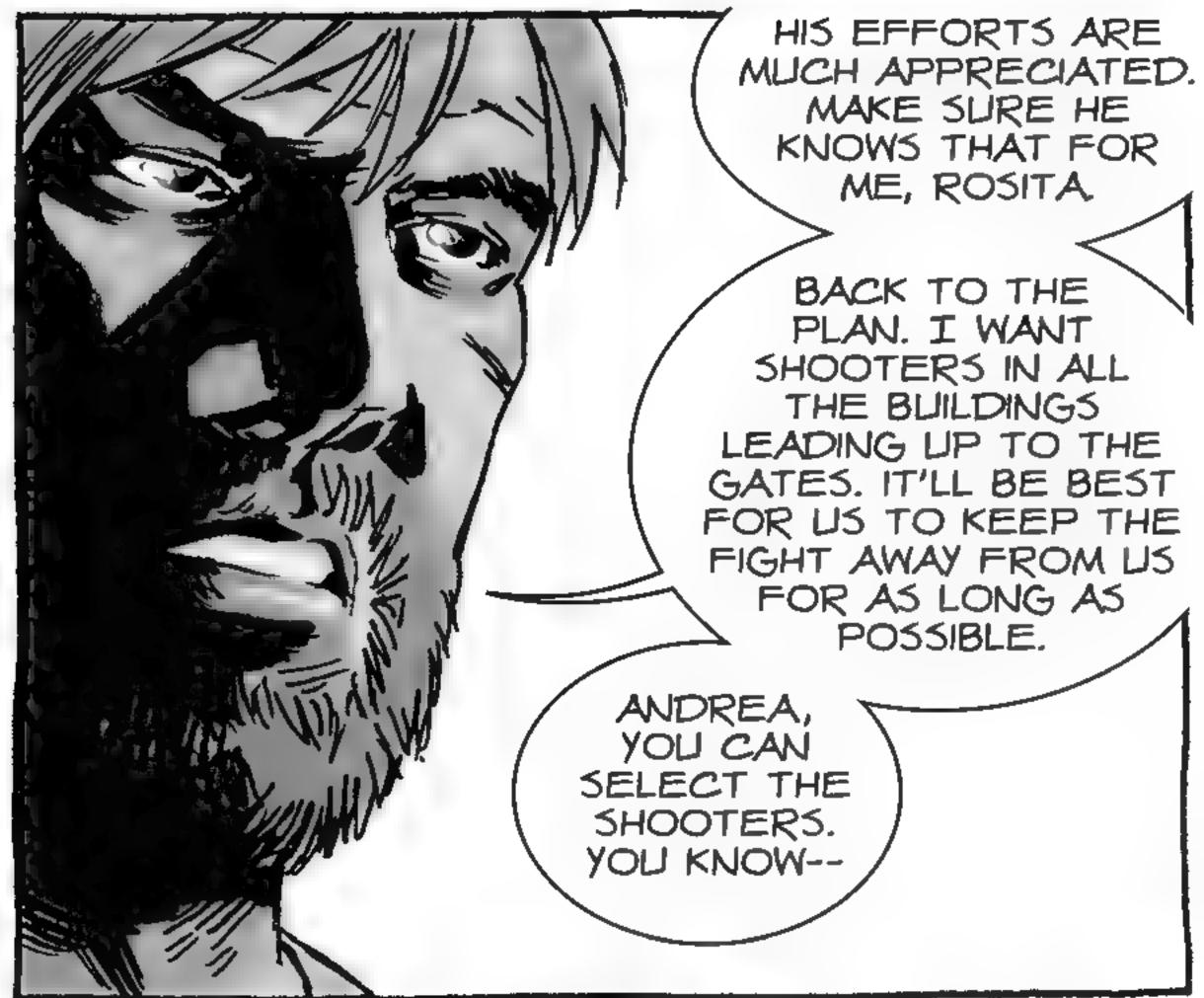






























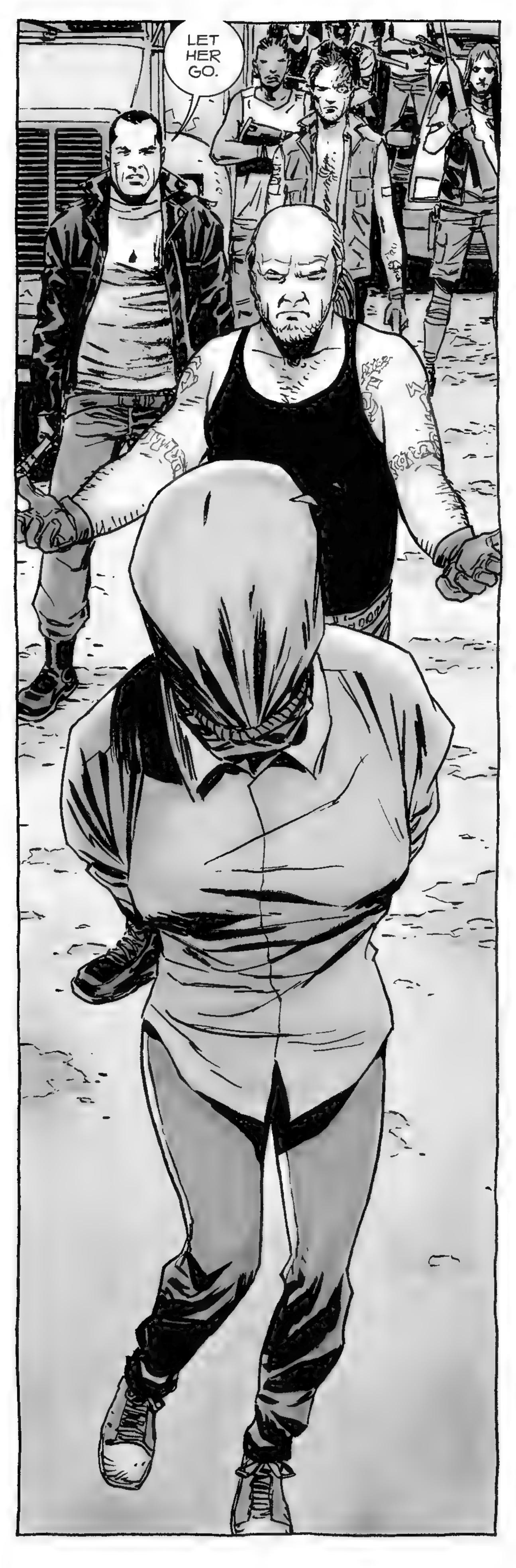








































WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

While most of you were enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with your families, an inordinate number of lunatics were writing us letters. WALKING DEAD: We're more important than your families.

I'm thankful for letters... let's dive right in!

Dear Messrs Kirkman, Adlard, Gaudiano, Wooton, Rathburn, Stewart & Mackiewicz,

I enjoy your comic immensely. It is excellent, though each issue is way too short and one month between issues is too long to wait.... :-)

Cheers from Melbourne, Australia

Javier Legnoverde

One month?! If you're only buying one issue, what the hell have we been doing two for?! Get your shit together.

Yeah! We're putting out WAY too many issues of this comic WAY too frequently these days. People are really going to freak out when we eventually go back to monthly.

Hi guys,

Great comics, I'm a latecomer into the comic series but once I started I couldn't put it down.

I just had a question about Rick. Unless I missed it, no one knows the fate of the Governor. For all they know he won and is still alive.

So why would Rick be so brazen in dealing with Negan? Wouldn't he be hesitant to repeat the same mistakes?

Phillip, Austin, TX

Michonne was still lurking around the prison in the aftermath of the attack, so I always figured she ID'd the Governor and passed that message along offpanel.

Two things... even if they did think the Governor was alive... he's all the way in Georgia, a few states away. So he's a non-issue. And yes, they do know he's dead and the prison fell. Aside from Michonne relaying that info, I think Rick and Carl saw the state of things and knew there really wasn't any "winner" that day. The other thing, Rick has learned a LOT since the prison, so if he seems confident in the face of Negan, that's why. We'll soon learn how wise that confidence ended up being...

Dear Mr. Kirkman

I've been with you since the very first issue and I wanted to write in to express my utter disgust with issue #116 of TWD. Shame on your Kirkman! It was a complete waste of time and money. I can't believe I made a special trip to the comic shop just for this! I can't even say I READ the issue because that would imply the issue actually had some words.

What did I get for my \$2.99? Count them, TWO double page spreads and about 5 minutes of enjoyment from

"Reading It". This was almost like looking at a zombie coloring book that had already been colored in. I expect this kind of lazy, hack filler issue crap from other publishers but not you and Image. I hope this is no indication of what to expect from the next 10 issues of "All Out War". If so, I'd re-dub it "All Out for Money".

I hope you knock it out of the park next issue.

Thanks for nothing. Marc Cawiezel

Sometime during the 90s fans/critics equated splashes—and god forbid double page splashes—were hacky—and in a lot of instances, they were, but they're incredibly useful storytelling tools, that affect pacing and scope and, in this particular case, are much more complicated and time consuming for Charlie and Stefano to draw than talking heads... But are actually REALLY easy to write.... So, fuck... you might be right...

HE IS NOT RIGHT! Look, there will be a lot of spreads in this story because there will be a lot of big moments in this story. There have been a lot of two-page spreads and splash pages in this comic since the very beginning... it's just how I like to tell stories. The group opening fire and the zombies arriving are moments that deserved the focus of a two-page spread. Wouldn't have been as big a moment if it were told in a small panel. I mean... sheesh! Then again... I LOVE '90s comics.

Dear Rob,

It says a lot about a man in how he takes criticism. I will admit most of the nerds (of which I am sort of one, though I have gotten laid a bit more than most of them, most likely) who give you shit about guns shot from hands, zombies with selective hearing of gunshots, the survival rate of children with half their faces blown off from guns, etc., are very annoying.

Please, oh please, regale us with more stories of your sexual prowess...

YES PLEASE!

That being said, just because someone is annoying doesn't mean they don't make a valid point. From your responses to a lot of Letter Hacks hating, you seem to believe that your comic has few if any inconsistencies (apart from your admittance that preprogramed watches with lithium batteries probably would still be functioning even at End Times, so there would be no need for an estimated calendar—"Earth Abides" covered this well, several decades ago, and I recommend it if you're looking for fresh ideas), but to that I disagree. Not because you are a hack, or repetitive, or stretched too thin, or money grubbing—no, I still get your comic every month and it is still a quality product (now every three weeks, THAT is cool as shit, good on ya).

Here is some advice from a person you know nothing about other than a vague idea of how often he gets laid and what he thinks of a significant part of your life's work: no one is perfect. We make mistakes, and a mistake in a creative endeavor is only bad when it is not addressed with honesty and a sincere desire to avoid repeating similar mistakes in the future. You do not do that. You really don't. You make mistakes, but defend them to the grave, and make increasingly bizarre rationales for them,

and if you keep doing that you may very well actually take it to the grave and come back as a zombie-writer before you hit issue 150.

Ta-ta 4 n0wz,

Andrew Stone

I couldn't disagree with you more. That's a joke, and I would never argue with someone who gets laid as often as you do.

I don't know what specific incident you're talking about, but if it's the tiger thing, that guy was just wrong. Tigers totally roar. On other matters... when it's obvious that I have made a mistake, I sometimes will do a tongue in cheek defense of that mistake as a joke... but that may not come across well in text form.

I'm certainly not of the mind that this comic series or anything I've done is flawless. Although I AM pretty fond of most of my responses in these letters columns.

Hey guys!

First of all, congratulations on keeping the awesome flow steady for so many years. I started issue 1 about five years ago and binge read (is that even a thing?) until I was up to speed with the dreadful one month(ish) waiting for the next fix. I love the character development and the slow build and the amazing structured plots you've managed to maintain throughout the years without ever losing quality.

The reason i'm writing this e-mail, tho, is that I've just realized something (I literally just realized it and had to write this first ever e-mail to a comic team for me). That something is that even though we have some well developed strong three dimensional BADASS female characters in the book (which looking at the comic book world is already a great achievement, so kudos there), I've noticed that there aren't any female led group of survivors out there. Seems like leading is the job for a strong man. I'd love to see a group lead by a fierce gal whose leadership and overall capacities are parallel to that of Rick's or the Governor. Maybe a good gal, maybe a big bad sadistic she-Negan. Either way, I'd love to see that. Maybe you've thrown it around somewhere and I just forgot about it. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

Anyway, not trying to criticize, I love the book and enjoy it every month, just getting through what I've realized.

May the force be with all of you!

Carlos

Not a bad idea... not a bad idea at all...

Has that issue not come out yet? Which issue is this... 119? What happens in this issue? Has it happened yet? All I'll say to this is stay tuned. (I'm currently finishing up issue 123... I lose track these days).

Oh Kirkman, Kirkman, m' man, what happened? Why do you insist on ripping off your customers? First the third Walking Dead novel was just a retelling of the Walking Dead issues containing the Governor vs the Survivors. But hey, maybe we'd get his side of the story. Oh, but oh, fool me once. Then I hear that it's going to be split into two parts. Not because it's going to be a Stephen King doorstopper (barely ~250) pages), but because you wanted to cash in on your fans in the most unethical of ways. And, as if that wasn't enough, you decided to make All Out War. The six issue series stretched, padded and put on a rack so that it finally became a 12 issue series. What happened? I know you're not lazy (4) comics, not including TWD, CEO of Skybound, COO of Image, writing for the TV show occasionally), so it's not like you're struggling for money. Is it greed? Laziness? I'm honest to God considering torrenting any and all of your future works if you keep this up.

Love, Joshy-boy

The hate! The hate she flows like wine! Regarding AOW, I promise, we didn't pad these issues out any more than we did before.

Than we did before? Whose side are you on, Sean?

With All Out War... this storyline is huge. Just because we're putting it out faster doesn't mean it's 6 issues stretched into 12. It's actually been pretty difficult to contain the story in 12 issues.

Wait, I mean... I screwed up. Sorry. (That's for Andrew Stone.)

On the novel front... the situation is not ideal, but we were locked into a release date and the novel was growing out of proportion as we worked on it. The decision was made to split it into two books, since there was a natural breaking point and it would allow us to meet our deadline. So one novel became two. And I insisted on the "part one & part two" because I wanted it to be clear that it was all one story. We could have easily titled one "Fall of the Governor" and the other "The Governor's Legacy" and people would have been happy that we'd decided to do an additional book... but I felt the two books kind of worked better as one story. Part one is 256 pages long, The Road to Woodbury was 288 pages long. So that's comparable. Part two clocks in at 288 pages, same as The Road to Woodbury. So while the part one and two made you think we cut a book in two to make more money... what we actually did was decide at the last minute to tell a bigger story that required another book.

Also, and I suppose this is a further response to Andrew Stone. I'm not trying to argue and I don't want to come off as defensive. I'm really just trying to be honest here. I value the support of each and every one of you, and if you have a question or complain... I want to answer that. That's why we print mostly negative mail (aside from the fact that it's more fun)... those are the people I want to answer. Positive mail is great, and we read it... but a letters column where we said "thanks for reading" over and over would be boring, but most of all... pointless.

You cared enough to write in, Joshy-boy... and I appreciate this. I'm grateful for you support of The Walking Dead and the fact that you're currently unhappy and feel like I'm screwing you over... that's not good. The fact is The Walking Dead has grown into a huge multi-media thing with a LOT of moving parts. There will be times when there's a shitty video game or a really late behind the scenes book or a less than ideal split novel... things come up and nobody's perfect.

I promise I'll keep trying to make things work out as best as they can, though.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I realize you don't often print positive letters, so I'll keep it short..

This month, you're a breath of fresh fucking air.

Leading up to the last page of issue 117 I just knew that Negan was going to kill David, as I presume you wanted. I thought to myself, "wow, the Governor wasn't THAT outwardly crazy!" Sure enough the first thing you wrote in the "Letter Hacks" section of that issue was, "Can you imagine the Governor ever doing something like THAT?"

Well done sir.

Ok you can get back to your all out war with the haters.

Aaron Gordon Buffalo, New York

I wrote that. Robert can take ALL the credit for the awesome story, but the blazing self-analysis? ALL ME. SEAN. THE GUY IN BOLD. (Do people think that Robert just has these back and forths with himself, to like, amuse readers/himself?) Are we confusing anyone else with these bold/italics formatting? What we're doing here is NOT revolutionary.

I should probably be gray or blue or something on top of being italicized. People do seem to lose track of who's talking sometimes. I love that we're getting compliments on your letters column commentary, though. Sigh.

Vox populi, motherfucker!

Dear Sean and Robert

First off, the standard praise. TWD is amazing - it really is. It revived my interest in comics across the board and it's an incredible achievement and testament to everyone that works on TWD that it has become a huge multi platform global success.

But...(there's always one)...What's going on with this All Out War arc? We were told to expect BIG things. Three issues in and well...I'm more than a little underwhelmed. I have to concur with the *haters* that this feels very much like another Governor story. I see at the end of 117 the comment about 'would the governor have stopped a rape?' - well... aren't we a tad jaded there.

Nothing jaded to distinguish a serial rapist from a killer who actively prevents rape.

How great was your comment now, Sean?! Eh?! Eh?! Burn!

This is all evil stuff on Negan's part. There's no coming back from caving Glenn's face in. It's kind of like asking whether Heinrich Himmler would draw the line at strangling a puppy or would he be a softy and just drown it?

Ok, my position is a lot more shaky with Holly's recent zombification...

Plus I've found, probably since Glenn died and that human 'every day man' left the book, that I give much less of a shit about the characters other than Rick, Carl and Andrea. Even then, I could probably get over their demise.

I guess I'm just hoping at the end of this storyline that the BIG reveal will be something completely new. Not that Negan has a human side, Rick becomes a bit bad, a few central characters die...We've been there, done that (and since this arc started I can now say I also have the T shirt). An untouched fully fledged city with a few inhabitants that has perhaps managed to wall itself off and the infrastructure it's capable of building with the new personnel? A working aircraft and pilot? A cure? A reason for the outbreak? A look at the wider world? The return of Lori - come on... I know she isn't really dead;)

Daryl?!

With muchos appreciation and thanks

Sean F

Lori is dead! DEAD!

Rest assured ALL OUT WAR is taking us to some very new, very different and very exciting places. This will be a drastically different book starting with issue 127, but that's all I'm going to say.

And only one issue a month! One goddamnit!

Sup Letter Hacks-

I have an answer for Josh in Edmonton in issue 117. The walkers' pants don't fall off because when they die and decompose the corpses bloat up and cause the pants to stick to the legs from all the sticky nasty puss stuff. Then eventually they decay further and lose weight but the pants are stuck to whatever flesh remains attached to bone.

God Robert and/or Sean, could you not be bothered to explain that to the man?

Ross

Napa, CA

Who really has time for science?

Not me!

Gentlemen,

Just finished 117. So... Holly is captured by big scary men and I'm supposed to be worried about her. So are we just forgetting that she stole Abraham from Rosita? C'mon. I can only assume that you haven't forgotten and you are actually maneuvering Holly into the sanctuary so that she can get her face ironed as is customary for cheaters. What about Rosita? (I would be so good to her if she lived in Dallas and wasn't a fictional character.) I know that the only reason that Holly is still alive is that Charlie really enjoys drawing her.

Holly didn't cheat on anyone... but I guess you must be pretty happy to with how this issue ended, sicko... also, your pre-apocalypse sense of morality is unsettling.

I've got your 2nd TV series right here: Holly the Homewrecker meets Rosita and Abraham and tries to seduce him but he rejects her and she is thrown out of the group. Then your 2015 "companion" series becomes about all of the horrible things that happen to her as she wanders alone. I'd watch 10 seasons of that shit.

J. Moore Team Rosita

Abraham didn't love Rosita. It's sad, and upsetting for Rosita, but don't put that on Holly. Sheesh.

Hi there, good job on the comic blah blah blah. I have two questions.

Why is there only 1 issue December and 2 in January because of "the holidays"? Doesn't releasing 2 in January make you work more in December? Sorry if that was a very stupid question.

Yes, we've had to work more this month, but a Wednesday Christmas release wasn't ideal for a new issue, so we just pushed it.

Yeah, it has nothing to do with our work, it has more to do with distribution schedules over the holidays. We're working on the March issues right now!

Will you consider doing 2 issues a week during season 5 as well?

NO.

Maybe. I hope Charlie doesn't see this.

Bonus question: Will you end the series around issue 300? I trust you and stuff... but even like 500 issues is too much. That'll be roughly 6 compendiums too. That'll be so sexy on my bookshelf.

Thanks a lot, friend. Teaghan, British Columbia, Canada

If Charlie and I aren't into it and aren't bursting with ideas and enthusiasm for the book... we won't continue. But as it stands now... I'm not 100% sure I can get through the story I want to tell in 300 issues... maybe. This story has an ending... and we're working toward it... we're not treading water trying to hit a number. 500 issues is NOT too much, though. I think that'd be awesome... if all of them were at the same level of quality.

Hey guys. I'm a long time reader, and a first time writer. For a while, I watched joyfully Negan ripping everbody and everything to pieces with Lucille, and i really enjoy that arc. I also couldn't stop thinking what kind of person Negan would be if he would swear in french. Ive loved the part 3 in all out war where negan realised he got shifted by Rick and gets out his "f**kin f**ker f**k f**k f**k f**k f**k". That part, in french, would become "ta****ak d, e*ti de c****s de sa*****nt de c****re de c****s de c****s de ta*****ak de ca*******t cal***é d'épais de c***s de m***e de ta****ak". French is an awesome swearing language. Maybe this guy would've been nicer if he could swear with more variety

I could take out the stars in the last phrases (which would become "tabarnak desti de caliss de dacramant de ciboire de criss de caliss de tabarnak de calissement calissé depais de criss de marde de tabarnak"), but i dont want young audience to read that. Wait, is there a young audience for this comic?

Keep up the good work guys!

Some french canadian guy Gabriel

This is the golden ideal of a Letter Hack! Good job!

Yes. Bravo, Gabriel. Bravo.

Shit goes very wrong very early next issue. Happy New Year!

-Sean Mackiewicz

See you all then!

-Robert Kirkman

1.06

BY KIRKMAN & AZACETA

it's what's INSIDE that matters

#WHATSNEXT





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